

[2 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the present policy to revive the degraded forest within Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) area under the foothills of Bhutan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests lands and adjoining areas through two-tier decentralized structure of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level in the country, including in Assam. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), 29 FDA projects in Assam have been approved at the total cost of Rs. 37.37 crores to treat an area of 26,955 hectares through 547 JFMCs. An amount of Rs. 19.07 crores has been released during last 3 years. Year wise funds released and utilized are as follows:—

Years	Amount Released (Rs. in Crores)	Amount Utilised (Rs. in Crores)
2003-04	5.58	4.72
2004-05	7.99	6.34
2005-06	5.50	7.75
TOTAL:	19.07	18.81

(c) Regeneration of forests in the degraded areas within Bodoland Territorial Area Districts under the foothills of Bhutan is being undertaken under different schemes, including Compensatory Afforestation, Plantation under Revolving Fund, Plan Schemes of State Government and NAP Scheme.

Report on climate change

484. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change;

(b) if so, the details of its findings;

(c) whether Government have made any study on its implementations in our country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what policy changes are proposed to be taken to contain the consequent effects of the expected climatic change in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to(d) Yes, Sir. The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released the Report title "Climate Change 2007—The Physical Science Basis" on February 2, 2007. The Report provides a global assessment of observed climate change, climate processes and estimates of projected/future climate change. The salient findings of the Report interalia include increase in the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide as a result of human activities since 1750; increase in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level. According to the Report, anthropogenic warming and sea level rise would continue for centuries due to the time scales associated with climate processes and feedbacks. The Report provides findings at the continental level. No country specific findings have been provided: The Government is seized of the concerns in the wake of projected climate change. Climate change is a global environmental problem, the principal responsibility for which lies with the developed countries, and not developing countries such as India. However India is engaged in the international climate change regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol, and various partnerships with other countries under the UNFCCC. While India does not have any GHG abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programs help mitigate climate change. These include

(1) Improving energy efficiency & conservation as well setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

(2) Power sector reforms

(3) Promoting hydro and renewable energy

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- (4) Promotion of clean coal technologies
 - (5) Coal washing & efficient utilization of coal
 - (6) Afforestation and conservation of forests
 - (7) Reduction of gas flaring
 - (8) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
 - (9) Encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems (10)
- Environmental quality management

**Financial assistance for development of
forests**

485. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals/schemes submitted by the various States seeking financial assistance for development of forests during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the time by when the pending proposals are likely to be cleared by Government and the reasons for the delay in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is the major scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for development of forests. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set-up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), 431 FDA projects have been approved to treat 4.46 lakh hectares area through 13,710 JFMCs. The State-wise number of FDA projects approved during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) and pending FDA project proposals are given in the Statement (See below). The pending proposals will be approved subject to their suitability according to the Guidelines of the NAP Scheme and the availability of funds.